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An Act To Authorize a Court To Appoint Counsel in Protection from Abuse Hearings

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 19-A MRSA §4005, sub-§6 is enacted to read:

6. Court-appointed attorney. The court may appoint an attorney at the State's expense for an indigent defendant of a complaint filed under this section if the defendant has other matters before a court or government agency that may be prejudiced by an adverse ruling in the proceeding brought under this section.

SUMMARY

This bill allows a court to appoint an attorney at the State's expense for an indigent defendant in a protection from abuse hearing if the defendant has other matters before a court or government agency that may be prejudiced by an adverse ruling in the protection from abuse hearing.